

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00  
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2645  
INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL  
ALL OTHER CANADIAN POSTS (BY POUCH)

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 01239

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, CA  
SUBJECT: TRUDEAU'S WASHINGTON VISIT: EFFECT ON  
FEDERALIST CAUSE AND ON LIBERAL POLITICAL FORTUNES

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: TRUDEAU'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON SERVED TO DEMONSTRATE AGAIN THAT, AT THIS STAGE OF FEDERALIST/PQ CONFRONTATION, TRUDEAU IS PERSONIFICATION OF FEDERALIST CAUSE. THOUGH WARMLY RECEIVED, HIS STATEMENTS IN WASHINGTON SHED NO NEW LIGHT ON FEDERALIST PLANS TO DEFEAT SEPARATIST THREAT. CRUCIAL QUESTION IS WHETHER TRUDEAU WILL BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN OR INCREASE WAVE OF GOOD WILL RESULTING FROM TRIP THROUGH INNOVATIVE APPROACHES, OR WHETHER HE WILL STAND PAT. HE IS CAPABLE OF EITHER. END SUMMARY.

2. STRICTLY IN TERMS OF FEDERALIST POLICY, TRUDEAU'S PRONOUNCEMENTS IN WASHINGTON ADDED NOTHING NEW. CONGRESSIONAL APPLAUSE AND PRESIDENT CARTER'S REMARKS TO CTV INTERVIEWER BRUCE PHILLIPS DID CONVINCE MANY CANADIANS THAT US BACKS THE FEDERALIST CAUSE, BUT TRUDEAU'S OWN STATEMENTS DID NOT CLARIFY OR EXTEND FEDERALIST GAMEPLAN ONE WHIT. AT FIRST, IT APPEARED HIS COMMENT IN ADDRESS TO CONGRESS THAT "ACCOMMODATIONS WILL BE MADE, REVISIONS  
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WILL TAKE PLACE" SIGNALLED SOME SHIFT IN FEDERALIST STRATEGY. AT FEB 24 HOUSE QUESTION PERIOD, HOWEVER, OPPOSITION PRESSED LONG AND HARD FOR AMPLIFICATION OF THIS REMARK, AND TRUDEAU INDICATED IT MEANT NO MORE THAN MAKING PAST FEDERAL PROGRAMS WORK BETTER. MEDIA PICKED UP THIS PARLIAMENTARY EXCHANGE, AND IDEA OF POSSIBLE NEW TRUDEAU APPROACH TO FEDERALISM QUIETLY DIED.

3. IN TERMS OF PERSONAL IMAGE, TRUDEAU'S WASHINGTON VISIT WAS CLEARLY A TRIUMPH OUTSIDE QUEBEC. HIS ADDRESS TO CONGRESS WAS NATIONALLY TELEVISED, AND IT RECEIVED HIGHLY FAVORABLE COMMENTS THROUGHOUT ENGLISH-SPEAKING CANADA NOT ONLY FROM OPINION LEADERS, BUT FROM MAN IN STREET. (SEE SEPARATE REPORTS FROM CONSULATES GENERAL.) UPSHOT IS THAT TRUDEAU'S PUBLIC STATURE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLY ENHANCED AND, SINCE HE REMAINS PERSONIFICATION OF FEDERALISM, FEDERALIST CAUSE HAS ALSO BEEN GIVEN SOME BOOST. GENERAL EUPHORIA AMONG LIBERAL PARTY ACTIVISTS EVEN LED TO TALK ABOUT NATIONAL ELECTIONS THIS JUNE. WE DISCOUNT POSSIBILITY OF EARLY ELECTIONS, BUT SUCH TALK IS INDICATIVE OF HOW ELATED LIBERALS ARE OVER TRUDEAU'S PERFORMANCE IN WASHINGTON.

4. INSIDE QUEBEC REACTIONS NATURALLY WERE DIFFERENT. AS INDICATED IN QUEBEC'S 74, VIEWS TENDED TO DIVIDE ACCORDING TO PREDISPOSITION. CONFIRMED FEDERALISTS ARE ALMOST EUPHORIC; MILITANT PQ SUPPORTERS ARE RESENTFUL OF WARM WASHINGTON RECEPTION GIVEN TRUDEAU, AND PARTICULARLY OF APPARENT U.S. SUPPORT FOR FEDERALIST CAUSE. "SILENT, UNDECIDED THIRD OF POPULATION" STILL SEEMS UNCOMMITTED.

5. NET EFFECT ON FEDERALIST CAUSE OF TRUDEAU VISIT MUST BE COUNTED A CLEAR PLUS -- THOUGH PERHAPS TRANSITORY. VISIT UNDOUBTEDLY GAVE LARGE MAJORITY OF CANADIANS FEELING THEY AGAIN HAD RESOURCEFUL AND SELF-CONFIDENT CONFIDENTIAL

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LEADER AT HELM. CRUCIAL QUESTION IS WHETHER TRUDEAU WILL BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN OR INCREASE THIS WAVE OF GOOD WILL THROUGH INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO CONTAIN PQ THREAT OR WHETHER HE WILL REVERT TO HIS PECULIAR BRAND OF DIFFIDENCE. HE IS CAPABLE OF EITHER, AND THERE IS NOT YET ADEQUATE EVIDENCE TO DETERMINE WHICH COURSE HE WILL FOLLOW. ENDERS

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## Message Attributes

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